

SALISBURY COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

Vision and Purpose:

The Town of Salisbury is a community of over 8,827 year-round residents. It is the northeastern most municipality in Massachusetts, bordered on the south by the Merrimack River and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. Over the years, Salisbury has maintained its traditional town character while accommodating substantial growth and new activities. It continues to be a livable community in a desirable, rewarding location. Traffic congestion at the beach and in Salisbury Square during the summer months continues to be a major source of frustration for Town residents. Further, residents throughout the Town have expressed the need for additional sidewalks along main streets and in neighborhoods as well as the desire for a walkable Town center (*Town of Salisbury Community Development Strategy 2012/2013*).

The purpose of the Town of Salisbury's Complete Streets Policy is to accommodate a wide range of road users by creating a road network that meets the needs of individuals utilizing a variety of transportation modes. The policy will be applied as a guide in decision-making in related infrastructure planning and construction. The Town of Salisbury recognizes the health, safety, economic viability, and numerous other benefits that can be achieved through application of Complete Streets principles. By incorporating Complete Streets as a guide, the Town of Salisbury will advance its efforts to provide safety and accessibility for all the users of our roadways, trails and transit systems, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial vehicles, and emergency vehicles and for people of all ages and of all abilities.

The Town of Salisbury aims to improve the health of its residents and acknowledges that Complete Streets can increase everyday physical activity by enabling additional walking and bicycling by its residents and visitors. It is the intent of the Town of Salisbury to formalize the plan, design, operation and maintenance of streets so that they are safe for all users of all ages and abilities as a matter of routine. This policy guides decision makers in consistently planning, designing, and constructing streets to reasonably accommodate all anticipated users including, but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, emergency vehicles, and freight and commercial vehicles.

Core Commitment:

The Town of Salisbury recognizes that roadway projects, whether new, maintenance, or reconstruction, are potential opportunities to apply Complete Streets design principles. The Town will, to the maximum extent practical, design, construct, maintain, and operate all streets to provide for a comprehensive and integrated street network of facilities for people of all ages and abilities.

Where feasible, Complete Streets design recommendations shall be incorporated into all publicly and privately funded projects. This includes transportation infrastructure and street design projects requiring funding or approval by the Town of Salisbury, as well as projects funded by the state and federal government, such as the Chapter 90 funds, Town improvement grants, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Capital Funding and other state and federal funds for street and infrastructure design. The same will be applied to private developments and related street design components or corresponding street-related components. In addition, to the extent

practical, state-owned roadways will comply with the Complete Streets resolution, including the design, construction, and maintenance of such roadways within Town boundaries.

The Department of Public Works, in consultation with the Planning Department will use best judgment regarding the feasibility of applying complete streets principles for routine roadway maintenance and projects. Other transportation infrastructure projects, including but not limited to roadway reconstruction, roadway reconfigurations, or subdivisions, transportation infrastructure may be excluded, upon approval by the Board of Selectmen and/or its designee, where documentation and data indicate that:

1. Where cost or impacts of accommodation is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use or probable future use.
2. Roadways where specific users are prohibited by law. An effort will be made, in these cases for accommodations elsewhere.
3. Other Town policies, regulations, or requirements contradict or preclude implementation of complete streets principles.

Best Practices:

The Town of Salisbury Complete Streets policy will focus on developing a connected, integrated network that serves all road users. Complete Streets will be integrated into policies, planning, and design of all types of public and private projects, including new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, and maintenance of transportation facilities on streets and redevelopment projects.

Complete Streets principles include the development and implementation of projects in a context sensitive manner in which project implementation is sensitive to the community's physical, economic, and social setting. The context-sensitive approach to process and design includes a range of goals by considering stakeholder and community values on a level plane with the project need. The overall goal of this approach is to preserve and enhance scenic, aesthetic, historical, and environmental resources while improving or maintaining safety, mobility, and infrastructure conditions, with consideration as to reasonableness

The latest design guidance, standards, and recommendations available will be used in the implementation of Complete Streets including:

- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation Project Design and Development Guidebook
- Documents and plans created for the Town of Salisbury, such as:
 - Salisbury Master Plan
 - Open Space & Recreation Plan
 - Sidewalk Survey Map
- The latest edition of American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highway and Streets
- The United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Design Controls (2009).
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521CMR Rules and Regulations

Complete Streets implementation and effectiveness should be constantly evaluated for success and opportunities for improvement. The Town will develop performance measures to gauge implementation and effectiveness of the policies.

Implementation:

The Town shall make Complete Streets practices a routine part of everyday operations, shall approach every transportation project and program as an opportunity to improve streets and the transportation network for all users, and shall work in coordination with other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to achieve Complete Streets.

The Town shall review and either revise or develop proposed revisions to all appropriate planning documents (master plans, open space and recreation plan, etc.), zoning and subdivision codes, laws, procedures, rules, regulations, guidelines, programs, and templates to integrate Complete Streets principles in all Street Projects on streets, as well as potential off-road trails and paths. The role of the DPW and Planning Department will implement this initiative.

The Town shall maintain a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facility infrastructure that will prioritize projects to eliminate gaps in the sidewalk and bikeway network.

The Town will reevaluate Capital Improvement Projects prioritization to encourage implementation of Complete Streets implementation.

The Town will make its best effort, as resources allow, to train pertinent town staff and decision-makers on the content of Complete Streets principles and best practices for implementing policy through workshops and other appropriate means.

The Town will utilize inter-department coordination to promote the most responsible and efficient use of resources for activities within the public way and will make a best faith effort to coordinate with adjacent municipalities to ensure a seamless network of facilities for all users of the roadway.

The Town will seek out appropriate sources of funding and grants for implementation of Complete Streets policies.

Evaluation of Effectiveness

The DPW and Planning Department will develop performance measures to periodically assess the rate, success and effectiveness of implementing the Complete Streets Policy. The Committee will determine the frequency of assessment and utilize appropriate metrics for analyzing the success of this policy. These metrics may include the total number of new bicycle lanes, the linear feet of new pedestrian accommodation, number of retrofitted pedestrian facilities or amenities, number of intersection improvements made to improve Level of Service (LOS) and safety for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists, rate of crashes by mode, rate of children walking or bicycling to school (when applicable), and/or number of trips by mode.